

THE SEMINOLES (Continued.)

THE Indians had set the American government at defiance. The slaves of Southern states continued to run away, taking refuge with the exiles and Seminoles, the slave holders of Georgia became more clamorous than ever. The Spanish crown could not protect herself from the invasion of the Americans when in pursuit of runaway negroes. She had seen her own subjects massacred, her forts destroyed or captured, and her rights as a nation insulted by an American army. In 1819, by a combination of force and negotiation, Florida was purchased from Spain for \$5,000,000.

Thus the Seminoles were brought under the dominion they so much dreaded. Slave holders once more petitioned the United States for aid in the capture of their escaped property. The United States, failed in their treaty with the Creeks, now recognized the Seminoles as a distinct tribe, and invited their chiefs to meet our commissioners and negotiate a treaty. The Seminoles agreed in this treaty to take certain reservations assigned them, the United States covenanting to TAKE THE FLORIDA INDIANS UNDER HER CARE AND TO AFFORD THEM PROTECTION AGAINST ALL PERSONS WHOMSOEVER, AND TO RESTRAIN AND PREVENT ALL WHITE PERSONS FROM HUNTING, SETTLING, OR OTHERWISE INTRUDING UPON SAID LANDS.

By this treaty all their cultivated lands were given up to the whites, and the Seminoles retired to the interior. Once more this long persecuted people found refuge; but it was only for a short time. The value of slaves in the states, caused slave catchers with chains and bloodhounds to enter Florida. They seized the slaves of the Indians, stole their horses and cattle and depredated their property. With such a violation of the treaty, renewed hostilities were inevitable.

The Indians petitioned for redress, but received none. Affairs grew worse until 1828, when the idea of immigra-